

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 254823
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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:JETHYDEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 254823

NODIS

FOR DR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOGADISCIO 1801 ACTION SECSTATE OCT 25.

QUOTE S E C R E T MOGADISCIO 1801

NODIS

FOR HABIB AND MOOSE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PBOR, PGOV, PPDC, SO, US

SUBJECT: SIAD ASKS PRESIDENT CARTER'S ADVICE

REF: (A) STATE 252186, (B) MOGADISCIO 1793

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT SIAD REQUESTED ME TO DELIVER TO PRESIDENT CARTER
SIAD'S PERSONAL PLEA FOR ADVICE ON THE FUTURE OF THE OGADEN CON-
FLICT. THIS STEP INJECTS A NEW ELEMENT IN OUR DIALOGUE WITH THE
SOMALIS AND MAY OFFER US AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENCOURAGE THE SOMALIS
TO TAKE SOME REALISTIC STEPS LOOKING TOWARD A SETTLEMENT. I
RECOMMEND I BE AUTHORIZED TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSULT-

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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 254823

ACTIONS ON THIS AND OTHER TOPICS. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT SIAD SUMMONED ME ON OCT 24 TO A LENGTHY PRIVATE
SESSION WHEN HE APPEALED FOR ADVICE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER. SIAD
PREFACED HIS REMARKS WITH THE CAVEAT THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO
INTERFERE IN THE MANNER IN WHICH THE USG CONDUCTS ITS AFFAIRS,
BUT HE ASKED THAT I PERSONALLY RETURN TO WASHINGTON WITH AN

ORAL MESSAGE FOR THE PRESIDENT WHICH SIAD THEN SET FORTH. HE SAID HE WANTED THIS APPEAL TO GO DIRECTLY FROM MY EARS TO THE PRESIDENT WITHOUT PASSING THROUGH THE BUREAUCRACY.

2. THE SOMALI LEADER THEN BEGAN WITH A DISCOURSE ON ETHIOPIAN COLONIALISM IN THE OGADEN PARALLELING HIS PUBLIC REMARKS IN HIS NATIONAL DAY SPEECH (REFTEL B). HE STRONGLY DEFENDED SELF-DETERMINATION, ALTHOUGH HE SAID HE KNOW THIS AROUSED CERTAIN FEARS IN OTHER PARTS OF AFRICA. HE MADE IT CLEAR THE SOMALI/SOVIET RELATIONS WERE DETERIORATING. HIS PRECISE OBSERVATION WAS QTE WE ARE FURTHER APART EVERY DAY UNQTE. SIAD DETAILED HIS FEARS THAT THE WAR IN THE OGADEN WOULD BE LONG AND BLOODY. HE SAID HE WAS NOT WORRIED ABOUT THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, BUT THAT HE FORESAW AN ETHIOPIAN COUNTEROFFENSIVE WHICH WOULD DRIVE ALL THE WAY TO BERBERA SIX MONTHS FROM NOW. THE SOMALI LEADER SAID THEN THE SOVIETS WOULD HAVE WHAT THEY SOUGHT-HEGEMONY IN THE HORN. SIAD CONTENDED HE RESISTED EARLIER SOVIET APPROACHES TO ACHIEVE THIS, BUT HE CAUTIONED, WITH THE BUILD UP IN ETHIOPIA, THE SOVIETS WILL HAVE THE TOOL IN THEIR HANDS. HE ASSERTED THE SOMALIS WOULD RESIST AN ETHIOPIAN OFFENSIVE TO THE LAST SOMALI, BUT REMARKED IT MIGHT COST JUST THAT.

3. HE CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS WITH AN APPEAL FOR ADVICE FROM THE PRESIDENT. I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW, HE SAID, JUST WHAT PRESIDENT CARTER WANTS ME TO DO. SURELY, HE CONTINUED, HE DOES NOT WISH THE ISSUE LEFT ENTIRELY IN SOVIET HANDS, WHICH IS WHERE IT WILL BE IF NOTHING IS DONE. HE ASKED ME AGAIN TO GO TO WASHINGTON AND CONVEY THIS MESSAGE.
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 254823

SAGE DIRECTLY TO THE PRESIDENT.

4. COMMENT: I BELIEVE SIAD IS SINCERE IN ATTEMPTING TO OPEN A DIALOGUE WITH THE PRESIDENT ON THE HORN. MUCH OF HIS MESSAGE IS SELF-SERVING RHETORIC, BUT IT APPEARS TO ME THERE IS NOW AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENCOURAGE THE SOMALIS TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL GESTURE TOWARD THE SETTLEMENT OF THE CONFLICT, AND PROMPT THEM TO BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO KENYAN FEARS. ACCORDINGLY, I STRONGLY RECOMMEND I BE AUTHORIZED TO TELL SIAD I AM GOING TO WASHINGTON TO DELIVER HIS MESSAGE. BEFORE DEPARTING THE DEPT MAY WISH TO SUGGEST CERTAIN POINTS I SHOULD REVIEW WITH SIAD IN ORDER TO PREPARE HIM FOR A POSSIBLE RESPONSE. I CAN APPRECIATE THAT THE DEPT MAY BELIEVE THE USG HAS ALREADY RESPONDED TO SIAD'S OFFER IN THE CONVERSATIONS UNDER SECRETARY HABIB CONDUCTED WITH AMBASSADOR ADDOU, BUT I BELIEVE SIAD HAS INJECTED A NEW ELEMENT AND PROVIDED US A NEW OPPORTUNITY. MOREOVER, FOR ME TO REMAIN IN MOGADISCIO WITHOUT APPEARING TO COMPLY WITH SIAD'S REQUEST MAY LIMIT MY EFFECTIVENESS. I ALSO SHOULD APPRECIATE AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT ON A NUMBER OF OTHER PROBLEMS. IF DEPT IS AGREEABLE TO MY RETURN I PLAN TO DEPART ON SUNDAY OCT 30 WITH A WASHINGTON ETA OF NOV 2ND.
LOUGHRAN UNQUOTE
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